

Sports



Lionel who?

Linebacker Mike Little offers Houston quarterback Lionel Wilson a taste of Aggie hospitality via a bone-crushing hit as defensive end Keith Baldwin leaps for the block. The Aggie played one of the most physical games of the year, pounding the Cougar backs and receivers into submission.

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Aggie win 'painful' for Coogs

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

Battalion Staff
As University of Houston wide receiver Lonell Phea limped out of the shower after his football team's 7-6 loss to the Texas Aggies, his pained expression told the story. The bloody gashes on his shoulders and the caution with which he walked showed what a beating he had taken in the Cougars' loss.
After getting his scraped shoulders bandaged, the 5-11, 175-pound Phea made his way toward his locker, finding that walking took much more effort than it had three hours before.
"I paid the price, but that's what a receiver's supposed to do," Phea said. "They always talk about how little I am, but even if I am little, it's going to take more than a couple of licks to get me down."
The Aggie and Cougar defenses spent the entire game inflicting pain on the members of each team's offense. As it turned out, Phea drew more attention from the Texas A&M defense than anyone, but still managed to catch five passes for 89 yards.
Phea quickly added that the loss wouldn't dampen the spirits of the Cougars, who now must return home to face 5-0 Southern Methodist University.
"We're going to be up for SMU. Most people think we aren't, but we are," Phea said.
Aggie quarterback Gary Kubiak's 43-yard

touchdown run with 1:35 left in the third quarter gave Texas A&M the first lead of the game, but members of both squads were startled by Kubiak's sudden burst of speed. UH coach Bill Yeoman said he didn't feel that Kubiak's rushing was a determining factor in the game, even though the Aggie junior finished with 91 yards on 15 carries.
"I don't know what happened on that one he (Kubiak) got loose on," Yeoman said. "He gained a couple of yards here and there, but he didn't kill anyone."
Aggie linebacker Mike Little, who with 11 tackles tied linebacker Bobby Stroger and defensive end Keith Baldwin for the team lead, said Kubiak's touchdown run surprised everyone.
"I was shocked," he laughed. "I never knew he could run that fast."
After allowing the Cougars to score a touchdown with 1:04 in the game, Little and the rest of the Aggie defense stopped quarterback Lionel Wilson's desperate two-point conversion attempt. Wilson threw a pass to fullback David Barrett, but the pass was underthrown and the Aggies were able to keep the ball until time ran out. Little, who defended on the two-point attempt, said the Cougars were nearly successful in their efforts to leave with an 8-7 win.
"If he (Barrett) wouldn't have gotten the heat on him, and (the turf) hadn't been slip-

pery and the pass hadn't been bad, it might have been a different outcome," Little said.
Yeoman said he felt that Wilson, even with 15 completions in 26 attempts for 216 yards, wasn't as effective as he had been against the Baylor Bears the previous week.
"Our little quarterback just didn't quite have a good day," Yeoman said. "He's a sophomore and he's going to have his bad days. Bless his heart, it just wasn't one of his good days."
"We went down and just couldn't get the ball in the end zone. We just couldn't quite execute the way we had to execute, and the way he (Wilson) will."
Wilson said Yeoman was right in his decision to go for the two points instead of the tie.
"We really wanted to win this game and we knew it was do or die in that situation," Wilson said. "We had to do whatever it took to score."
"We should have gotten the football in the end zone the first half. A&M has a good football team, I've got to give them credit. It's just that any given day any team can win."
The most valuable lesson learned by the Cougars about the game was that they shouldn't underestimate their opponents. Yeoman, visibly upset by the outcome of the game, said Houston didn't learn much from the one-point loss.
"There has to be some good out of everything, but there's darn little good in losing."

Oiler fans get something to relax about in 35-17 win

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Oiler fans left the Astrodome before the two minute warning content that the Oilers' game against the Seattle Seahawks had been won without any last-minute defensive heroics.

The uncharacteristic Oiler performance Sunday was a balance between the running of Earl Campbell and the passing of Ken Stabler, which provided for a 35-17 rout of the Seahawks and which allowed local fans an unaccustomed relaxed fourth quarter.

When Campbell wasn't carrying on one of his team record-setting 39 carries Sunday, Stabler was faking the run to him and throwing his soft passes over the Seahawks heads.

"The passing game obviously depends on how well you run the ball," said Stabler.

Campbell pounded the Seahawks for 186 yards and two short touchdown runs, while Stabler passed for 156 yards and three touchdowns of between 24 and 32 yards.

Middle guard Ken Cannard put the game into perspective from a defensive standpoint: "Our offense performed beautifully today. It really enabled our defense to get a much needed rest. The Snake (Stabler) went out and performed like we knew he would."

Despite previous offensive problems, Head Coach Ed Biles said it was not Stabler who concerned him when the Oilers fell behind 10-0 in the first quarter.

"I wasn't concerned about our offense. I was more concerned about our defense. They (Seattle) executed well and we were down for a little while. But we hung in there and I felt from the beginning of the game we were going to move the ball," Biles said.

Stabler's first touchdown pass, a 31-yarder to Ken Burrough late in the first quarter, came on a fourth down-and-one-yard situation at Seattle's 31. Seahawks Head Coach Jack Patera, who had seen on films that Stabler passed only six times one week before, was surprised.

"We knew Campbell was going to be tough," he said. "But we thought we could get a few more turnovers than we did. This is the best that Kenny has played all year."

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